

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An authentication apparatus for performing a personal authentication process, comprising:

an authentication information receiving unit ~~for receiving an~~ configured to receive, from a plurality of articles for authentication, instances of authentication information held, respectively, by each of a the plurality of articles for authentication from each of the plurality of articles for authentication carried by a right person, and at the same time communicating with at least one article for authentication by radio; and

a personal authentication unit ~~for performing~~ configured to perform the personal authentication process using the ~~plurality~~ instances of authentication information received by said authentication information receiving unit,

wherein said plurality of articles for authentication are physically attached to a plurality ~~number of~~ portable articles customarily carried by ~~said a~~ right person,

said personal authentication receiving unit certifies the right person when a total number of the ~~plurality~~ instances of authentication information respectively received from the different articles is more than a predetermined reference number,

said personal authentication unit decides said reference number according to an object of the personal authentication, and

the plurality of articles for authentication includes a main article and a plurality of assistant articles, each of said plurality of assistant articles holding the same authentication information as is held by the others of the plurality of assistant articles, said personal authentication unit certifying the right person when receiving said authentication information from said main article and said authentication information from ~~any at least~~ at least one of said assistant articles.

2. (Currently amended) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an authentication information holding unit ~~for previously holding that holds~~ predetermined weight coefficients, each weight coefficient respectively corresponding to one of

the instances of authentication information held respectively by the plurality of articles for authentication showing weights of the authentication information in response to each of the plurality of authentication information,

wherein said personal authentication unit acquires the weight coefficient corresponding to the received authentication information from said authentication information holding unit, and certifies the right person when a sum of the acquired weight coefficients is greater than a predetermined reference value.

3. (Original) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said personal authentication unit decides differently said reference value according to an object of the personal authentication.

4.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of articles for authentication holds an identification information identifying the right person as said authentication information.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) An authentication system, comprising:
a plurality of articles for authentication carried by a right person and used to certify the right person; and

an authentication apparatus for performing a personal authentication process, wherein said each article for authentication holds different authentication information,

said authentication apparatus includes a personal authentication unit for receiving the plurality of authentication information held by said plurality of articles for authentication and certifying the right person using the received plurality of authentication information,

said plurality of articles for authentication are physically attached to a plurality of portable articles customarily carried by said right person,

said personal authentication receiving unit certifies the right person when a total number of the plurality of authentication information respectively received from the different articles is more than a predetermined reference number,

said personal authentication unit decides said reference number according to an object of the personal authentication, and

the plurality of articles for authentication includes a main article and a plurality of assistant articles, said personal authentication unit certifying the right person when receiving said authentication information from said main article and said authentication information from any one of said assistant articles.

9. (Original) The authentication system as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one of said articles for authentication transmits said authentication information to said authentication apparatus by radio using an energy by an electromagnetic wave acquired from outside.

10. (Original) The authentication system as claimed in claim 8, wherein one of said articles for authentication includes an authentication key generating unit for receiving said authentication information held by that article for authentication from the other articles for authentication, and generating an authentication key for the personal authentication based upon the received authentication information and the authentication information held by that article for authentication in advance,

said personal authentication unit of said authentication apparatus receives said authentication key from said article for authentication that has generated said authentication key, and certifies the right person using said authentication key.

11. (Original) The authentication system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said article for authentication generates a decoding key for decoding an encoded information using said authentication key,

said personal authentication unit performs a decoding process using said decoding key.